

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

JAN - 6 2011

The Honorable Michael O. Johanns  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

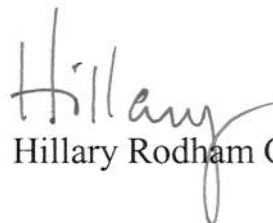
Thank you for your letters regarding alternative routes for the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline. I recognize that ensuring a complete environmental review of the pipeline – including potential impacts on the Nebraska Sandhills and the Ogallala Aquifer – is an important issue for you, your constituents, and the state of Nebraska. We are carefully considering your concerns as part of our meticulous environmental review, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order (E.O.) 13337.

We have not made a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, and will not make one until we complete all steps of our review process. Since we have a strong commitment to the environment and to ensuring that decisions related to the pipeline are fully informed, your letters have been included in the administrative record for the TransCanada application.

We are currently reviewing public comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and making edits to that document. We have not yet determined whether the next version of the EIS will be a supplemental draft EIS or a final EIS. Once the final EIS is issued, the federal agencies identified in E.O. 13337 will have 90 days to express their views on whether granting the application would be in the national interest. When the interagency consultation process is complete, the permit application will be prepared for a final Department decision.

Thank you for your interest. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hillary Rodham Clinton